

March 14, 2006

Public Notice for Water Quality Certification and/or Waste  
Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects)

**Sonoma County Water Agency**  
**Matanzas Creek Detention Reservoir Sediment Removal Project**  
**Sonoma County (WDID# 1B05145WNSO)**

On November 3, 2005, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA) requesting a Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) for the Matanzas Creek Detention Reservoir Sediment Removal Project in Sonoma County. The proposed project causes disturbances to waters of the United States associated with Matanzas Creek and the Santa Rosa Hydrologic Sub Area No. 14.22, Russian River Hydrologic Unit No. 114.00.

The proposed project is located at the Matanzas Creek Reservoir, approximately 2 miles southeast of Santa Rosa off of Bennett Valley Road in Sonoma County. The purpose of the project is to restore floodwater storage capacity within Matanzas Reservoir.

Matanzas Reservoir is approximately 2,000 feet in length, extending from north to south and has a design capacity of 1,500 acre-feet, with a 200 acre-foot sediment pool and 1,300 acre-foot flood detention pool. Approximately 10.85 acres of jurisdictional wetlands and waters of the United States will be permanently impacted by this project. This includes 7.0 acres of open waters in the reservoir, 3.19 acres of riparian habitat along the reservoir's edge, and 0.55 acres of seasonal wetland.

The proposed project consists of the following activities: dewatering the reservoir, removal and disposal of approximately 120,000 cubic yards of sediment from the reservoir, removal of vegetation, construction of permanent access ramps into the reservoir, and construction of a road downstream of the dam to facilitate these activities. During dewatering activities, the SCWA will retrieve fish with beach seines and will relocate them in a transport truck equipped with temperature and oxygen controls to Lake Ralphine in Santa Rosa, Sonoma County. A temporary gravel filter dam will be placed in Matanzas Creek below the dam to filter suspended sediment from the outflows. Sediment removed from the reservoir will be placed northeasterly of the dam on SCWA property against an existing hillside, graded with up to 2:1 slopes with compaction rates at 90 percent or better. Erosion control will include hydroseeding and installation of erosion control fabric on exposed slopes.

To further restore floodwater capacity within Matanzas Reservoir, SCWA is proposing to change operation of the reservoir. The dam was originally designed to operate as a floodwater detention structure with the bottom valve closed. Changing the operation of the reservoir will be achieved by allowing the valve to remain open and creating a low-flow channel to run its course within the footprint of the existing reservoir.

The total area of wetlands to be permanently filled is approximately 0.55 acre. A Mitigation and Monitoring Plan has been developed to offset the impacts to wetlands, riparian habitats, and the removal of coast live oaks from the proposed onsite sediment disposal areas. The mitigation plan includes creating a 0.86-acre seasonal wetland directly adjacent to the proposed low-flow channel where it is expected to experience periodic hydrologic connectivity with the channel during storm events. Riparian habitat mitigation is based upon the mean tree densities in the

impacted project area and will include the replacement of trees at a 1:1 ratio with 3,688 trees planted. An additional 350 plants of native brush species will be incorporated into the two riparian restoration areas. Oak seedlings will be planted in a separate location at a 5:1 ratio for trees greater than 4 inches diameter at breast height (DBH) and at a 1:1 ratio for less than 4 inches DBH. Re-vegetation along the low flow channel is proposed along approximately 700 linear feet. Off-site mitigation opportunities are also being considered in order to address temporal impacts.

Non-compensatory mitigation measures include the use of erosion control Best Management Practices (BMPs).

No special status fish species, amphibians, or plant species will be impacted by the project. Dewatering and sediment removal activities are proposed to begin in May 2006 and are expected to be complete by November 2006. Vegetation removal has already begun to avoid nesting birds.

An application for an individual permit with the United States Army Corps of Engineers has been filed (File No. 26223N). An application has also been submitted for a Streambed Alteration Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Game (pending).

The Sonoma County Water Agency, as the lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, has determined that this project qualifies for a Mitigated Negative Declaration pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). (SCH# 2001062092)

The nearest receiving water is Matanzas Creek located in Russian River Hydrologic Unit No. 114.00.

Staff is proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and/or Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act Authority. In addition, staff will consider all comments received during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this letter. If you have any questions or comments, please contact staff member Andrew Jensen at (707) 576-2683, or at [ajensen@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:ajensen@waterboards.ca.gov), or Michelle Jensen at (707) 576-6711, or at [mjensen@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:mjensen@waterboards.ca.gov), within 21 days of the posting of this notice.

The related documents and comments received are on file and may be inspected or copied at the Regional Water Board office, 5550 Skylane Blvd., Boulevard, Suite A, Santa Rosa, California. Appointments are recommended for document review. Appointments can be made by calling (707) 576-2220.